

Remarks/Arguments

Restriction to one of the following inventions has been required under 35 U.S.C. 121: I. Claims 1 to 4 and 6 to 8, drawn to a coating film-forming method, classified in class 204, subclass 499+; and II. Claims 5 and 9 to 11, drawn to a coated product, classified in class 428, subclass 626+.

Applicants elect with traverse the invention of Group I, Claims 1 to 4 and 6 to 8.

The Office Action stated: that this application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: the recited amine-added epoxy resin (A) obtained by reacting an epoxy resin (a_1) with at least one modifying agent selected from the group consisting of a polyhydric polyol (a_2), an epoxy compound (a_3) of the polyhydric polyol and a cyclic ester compound (a_4), a polyphenol compound (a_5) and an amino group-containing compound (a_6). The Office Action stated: that the species are independent or distinct because they are mutually exclusive.

The Office Action stated: that applicants are required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable; and that, currently, Claim 1 is generic.

The Office Action stated: that applicants are advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consistent with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added.

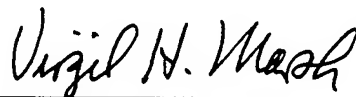
Applicants elect with traverse species epoxy compound (a_3) of the polyhydric polyol.

Claims 1 to 4 and 6 to 8 are readable on the elected species.

The Office Action stated: that applicants are advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention. This has been done above.

Date: Feb. 11, 2008

Respectfully submitted,



Virgil H. Marsh
Reg. No. 23,083

Fisher, Christen & Sabol
1725 K St., N.W.
Suite 1108
Washington, DC 20006

7

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on Feb. 11, 2008.

Virgil H. Marsh
FISHER, CHRISTEN & SABOL
1725 Street, N.W., Suite 1108
Washington, D.C. 20006

4